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ENGL 877

OMV Exploration 1

Large Data Set

There were many interesting takeaways from my weekend deep dive into the various One More Voice texts and my path to narrowing down to just twelve to possibly use for the class final project. I also used ChatGPT for the first time (first to do a little summary of the three longer book-length texts and then to, I’m a bit embarrassed to admit, turn a Word document into a PDF), which was fun. One connection I made was the fact that many of these texts still to this day have one or more authors still left to credit. It has always been strange to me to see “anonymous” listed as a cited source, but perhaps we will go further into this topic in class or in office hours sometime soon. As far as my own selections are concerned, I would like to further focus that search for some bigger connective tissue, but for the first large data set, I simply chose authors I wanted to know more about (in the case of Claude McKay and Frederick Douglass) or works whose topics I found very interesting upon first glance. I spend a lot of time in the Walt Whitman Archive working with both journalism and correspondence (and now, strangely enough, correspondence printed in journalism,) so I would really like to focus on letters and works of previously unattributed authors, “famous” or not does not particularly matter to me at this point. I found it interesting the recurring theme of Christianity, being wary of false idols, and various personal stories, poems, and letters that can give a more whole insight into some parts of history that really aren’t that long ago. I’m very curious as to what the final projects will look like, so I’m a bit hesitant to make any huge commitments at this point. I think it’s safe to say that I have more questions than answers at this point, but am excited to really get started in class this week. Looking forward to hearing what others found and what we (and I) will be doing next with these texts.

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